

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02

NSC-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 IGA-01 /041 W

----- 121666

P 030445Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9582

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 3787

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, APER, CB

SUBJECT: PERSONNEL CEILING

REF: STATE 046032

1. FOLLOWING PERSONNEL (ALL AIR FORCE) HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN AIR-LIFT OPERATION:

A. FOUR CARGO CONTROL PERSONNEL OPERATING RADIOS IN CONNECTION WITH AIRLIFT. THREE OF THESE PERSONS COME IN ON THE FIRST FLIGHT IN THE MORNING AND GO OUT ON THE LAST FLIGHT IN THE EVENING. THE FOURTH PERSON REMAINS OVERNIGHT AND IS COUNTED IN HEADSPACE FIGURES.

B. TWO MECHANICS NECESSARY TO MAKE REPAIRS ON MATERIEL HANDLING EQUIPMENT LIKEWISE COME IN AND GO OUT THE SAME DAY.

C. MEDTC USED THREE QUOTE CARGO PUSHERS UNQUOTE FOR SHORT PERIOD OF OPERATION. THESE LIKEWISE CAME IN AND WENT OUT THE SAME DAY. THIS WAS DISCONTINUED, BUT PLAN IS TO HAVE THESE PERSONNEL RESUME OPERATION ON MARCH 4.

D. STARTING MARCH 2 THERE WILL BE ONE OFFICER AND ONE NCO SUPERVISOR OF AIRLIFT AIRCRAFT WHO WILL LIKEWISE TRANSIT PHNOM PENH FOR THE DAY.

2. UNLESS PERSONNEL REMAIN IN COUNTRY OVERNIGHT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN COUNTED ON HEADSPACE. CLEARANCE, HOWEVER, IS REQUIRED FOR HEADSPACE PURPOSES, AND PROVISION IS MADE FOR THESE PERSONNEL
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UNDER HEADSPACE IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THEY WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN

OVERNIGHT.

3. FOR YOUR INFORMATION FOLLOWING IS HEADSPACE COUNT FOR PERIOD
FEBRUARY 15 (DAY AUGMENTED DC-8 AIRLIFT BEGAN) TO MARCH 2:

FEBRUARY 15-194 FEBRUARY 23-193

16-195 24-193

17-197 25-195

18-192 26-196

19-194 27-195

20-194 28-197

21-196 MARCH 1 -186

22-193 MARCH 2 --197

4. COMMENT BY AMBASSADOR: SINCE I TOOK CHARGE OF
THIS MISSION NEARLY ONE YEAR AGO I HAVE MADE CONCERTED
EFFORT TO BRING HEADSPACE PROBLEM UNDER CONTROL AND TO
COMPLY FULLY, IN LETTER AND IN SPIRIT, WITH LEGISLATIVE
CEILING ON PERSONNEL. WE HAVE REDUCED NUMBER OF
AUTHORIZED POSITIONS IN MISSION FROM 216 TO 200. WE
HAVE CARRIED OUT STRICT ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGHOUT
THIS PERIOD AND HAVE EXCEEDED CEILING OF 200 ON ONE
DAY ONLY, THROUGH AN ACCIDENT WHEN A PERSON WHO WAS
SUPPOSED TO DEPART PHNOM PENH MISSED HIS FLIGHT AND
HAD TO SPEND NIGHT HERE UNEXPECTEDLY. WE ARE NOW
ENCOURAGING SOME MEMBERS OF OUR MISSION TO TAKE
ANNUAL LEAVE, ARE DECLINING TO PERMIT ENTRY OF TDY
PERSONNEL OR VISITORS SUCH AS AUDITORS EXCEPT FOR THOSE
ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO OUR OPERATIONS, AND ARE TAKING
OTHER MEASURES DESIGNED TO REDUCE OUR DAILY HEADSPACE
AVERAGE BELOW 190 IF POSSIBLE. THIS HELPS REDUCE OUR
NUMBER OF POTENTIAL EVACUEES, AND ALSO MAKES ROOM FOR
THESE TDYERS NEEDED FOR THE AIRLIFT OPERATION IF
SOMEONE INSISTS THAT THEY OUGHT TO BE COUNTED EVEN
THOUGH THEY DO NOT OVERNIGHT IN CAMBODIA.

5. IF DEPARTMENT HAS SUGGESTIONS AS TO OTHER MEASURES
WE COULD TAKE TO COPE WITH HEADSPACE PROBLEM AND STILL
CONTINUE ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS, WE WOULD WELCOME THEM,
BUT WE BELIEVE WE HAVE THE PROBLEM UNDER CONTROL, WE
TRUST TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE DEPARTMENT AS WELL
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AS THE CONGRESS.

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